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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/175,522	10/20/1998	PAUL STEPHAN BEDROSIAN	L0012/7001	7010

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EXAMINER

PHAN, HANH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2633

DATE MAILED: 09/06/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/175,522

Applicant(s)

BEDROSIAN, PAUL STEPHAN

Examiner

Hanh Phan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 1998.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 14 and 16-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11-13, 15 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to the Amendment filed on 06/24/2002.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1-10, 14, and 16-20 are rejected under 35U.S.C.102(e) as being anticipated by Panahi et al (U.S. Patent number 6,272,130).

Regarding claims 1 and 16, referring to figures 11 and 12, Panahi teaches apparatus for providing synchronization signals to a telecommunications network comprising: a central synchronization management unit (1100)(Fig. 11) for distributing synchronization signals (from

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col. 12, line 38 to col. 13, line 65), and a synchronization distribution unit (1200)(Fig. 12) connected to receive synchronization signals from the central synchronization management unit (1100) and to distribute the signals to at least one network element (1260)(i.e., data sink)(from col. 13, line 66 to col. 14, line 36).

Regarding claim 2, Panahi teaches the synchronization signals are optical signals(Fig. 11, col. 13, lines 60-65).

Regarding claim 3, Panahi teaches the central synchronization management unit (1100)(Fig. 11) comprises: an input port for receiving a clock signal (i.e., master clock signal, mux clock signal), and an optical processor (i.e., optical transmitter) for producing optical clock signals (from col. 12, line 38 to col. 13, line 65).

Regarding claim 4, Panahi teaches a processor (1120, 1140, 1142) (i.e., retimed clock 1142) (Fig. 11) for retiming clock signals received at said input port (col. 13, lines 46-59).

Regarding claims 5 and 17, Panahi teaches the input port is equipped to receive clock signals (i.e., master clock signal of the T1 data, clock signal of FDDI data and Ethernet data) from a plurality of clock sources (1112, 1113)(Fig. 11, col. 12, lines 56-67, col. 13, lines 1-6).

Regarding claim 6, Panahi teaches the central synchronization management unit (1100)(Fig. 11) selects one of a plurality of input clock signals as a primary clock output signal (i.e., master clock signal)(col. 13, lines 55-59).

Regarding claim 7, Panahi teaches the central synchronization management unit produces a plurality of optical clock output signals (Fig. 8B, col. 10, lines 38-67, col. 11, lines 1-33).

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Regarding claim 8, Panahi teaches the synchronization distribution unit (810) comprises a passive optical input port configured to receive an optical clock signal and to split the optical clock signal into two signals, routing one of the split signals to an optical output (Fig. 8A, col. 10, lines 38-67, col. 11, lines 1-33).

Regarding claims 9 and 18, Panahi teaches the synchronization distribution unit (810) comprises a active optical input port configured to receive an optical clock signal; and a clock recovery system configured to perform clock recovery on an optical clock signal received at either the active or passive optical input port (840)(i.e., bypass switch selecting a primary fiber 841 or secondary fiber 842)(col. 10, lines 38-67, col. 11, lines 1-33).

Regarding claims 10 and 19, Panahi teaches the clock recovery system is configured to receive optical clock signals from said active optical input port and from said passive optical input port (840) and to perform clock recovery on an optical clock input from a selected one of the active and passive optical input ports (Fig. 8A, col. 10, lines 38-67, col. 11, lines 1-33).

Regarding claim 14, Panahi teaches further comprising a second synchronization distribution unit (1200)(Fig. 10) connected in series with the synchronization distribution unit (1100) connected to receive synchronization signals from the central synchronization management unit (1300), the second synchronization distribution unit (1200) configured to receive synchronization signals from the synchronization distribution unit (1100) connected to receive synchronization signals from the central synchronization management unit (1300)(col. 12, lines 13-37).

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Regarding claim 20, Panahi teaches the selected clock signal is converted from an optical to an electrical signal before transmission to the network element (Fig. 8A, col. 10, lines 38-67, col. 11, lines 1-33).

4. Claims 11-13, 15, and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Uchida (U.S. Patent number 5,682,257) teaches optical interface in sonet system.

Dugan (U.S. Patent number 5,710,650) teaches optical.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh Phan whose telephone number is (703)306-5840.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan, can be reached on (703)305-4729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-4700.


LESLIE PASCAL
PRIMARY EXAMINER